

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central Euro-pean Time on AFN tele-vision. In this week's edition...medical teams set up clinics and treat about 10,000 sick and injured Cameroonians; bring hope and hearing to a young African mother and more from Africa.

News briefs

New commander

Lt. Col. Mark Koechle, 81st Fighter Squadron operations officer, assumes command of the squadron from Lt. Col. Christopher Haave during a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. April 7 in Hangar 1.

Haave has been the squadron commander since July 1998. He leaves Spangdahlem Air Base to attend the French Joint Defense College in Paris.

Koechle hails from Kokomo, Ind. A 1983 graduate from Purdue University, Ind., with a degree in aeronautical engineering, he completed pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., in October 1984. He is a senior pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in the T-37, T-38 and A-10. The colonel and his wife, Carol, have two sons.

The uniform for the ceremony is duty uniform. Members wearing flight suits should also wear leather jackets. A reception follows the ceremony at 3:30 p.m. in the Spang Club.

Court-martial

An 81st Fighter Squadron airman received 20 days confinement and forfeiture of \$300 during a summary court-martial March 23.

Airman Basic Jeremiah Moulton pleaded guilty during the trial to violating articles 123a and 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Moulton's troubles began in April 1999 when he became \$1,444.18 indebted to a financial institution and by November 1999 had failed to pay the debt. In addition, he wrote about 25 insufficient funds checks totaling \$4,919, knowing there wasn't sufficient funds or credit with the two banks when the checks were presented for payment. The checks were written to about six different services squadron facilities on base.

A summary court-martial tries minor offenses and normally consists of one officer. Only enlisted members may be tried by this type of court-martial. Sentences carry similar limitations as Article 15 punishment, with the exception that 30 days of hard labor can be adjudged.

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Photos by Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Emergency services

Andy Scharbillig (left) and Mario Pawlowski, German Red Cross (DRK) ambulance technicians in Bitburg, demonstrate to Master Sgt. Richard Lester, emergency services NCOIC, how they load patients onto the ambulance. Beginning Saturday, DRK assumes responsibility for ambulance service for Bitburg military housing residents. The change in service is only for people living and working at Bitburg. Spangdahlem service remains unchanged. People who need an ambulance in Bitburg now call the DRK at 19222.

Clinic explains anthrax procedures

By Maj. Mike Butel
Public health

Confusion among some units on base regarding the anthrax vaccination program prompted the immunizations staff and public health to explain local procedures.

The immunization clinic requires a tasking order before initiating the vaccine series – six shots during an 18-month period. If advance notice is available, people should coordinate with the clinic to schedule the best time to start the series based upon vaccine supply (unit deployment managers should do this for large groups of 10 or more).

Ideally, people should receive the first three shots before departing. This takes about four weeks. For high-threat areas, as many shots are administered as the

vaccine schedule and time allow. The vaccine series is then continued at the deployed location and upon return according to the recommended schedule.

There's enough vaccine in theater to vaccinate people traveling to high-threat areas. To ensure adequate supplies are on hand at Spangdahlem AB, UDMs should coordinate with the immunization clinic on vaccine schedules for large groups.

Anthrax vaccine supplies are closely monitored within U.S. Air Forces in Europe. As a result, the clinic must send justification to U.S. Air Forces in Europe headquarters to receive additional vials of vaccine.

The anthrax vaccination program is divided into three phases.

■Phase I (on going) – Vaccinate

people PCSing or going TDY to the following high-threat areas: Korea, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Israel.

■Phase II (anticipated to being in the summer or fall) – Vaccinate all people on mobility.

■Phase III – Vaccinate the total force.

The recommended vaccination schedule calls for the second shot two weeks after the first, then four weeks, six months, 12 months and 18 months. Afterward, a booster is given annually. If a dose can't be given at the appropriate time interval, the vaccine is given as soon as possible and the next dose continued based upon the recommended schedule following the adjusted date of the missed dose.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Victor Trisvan

All in the family

Dyanne Brown, 470th Air Base Squadron family support center relocation assistance specialist, prepares newcomer packets at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The FSC at Geilenkirchen recently earned the 1999 Category II U.S. Air Forces in Europe Outstanding Family Support Center Award. With no services squadron for support there, the FSC is the only American support agency at the NATO base. As such, it's the focal point for information for all American service members in the area, Stanley said.



Airman 1st Class Kimberlie Drews

In the driver's seat

Staff Sgt. Donnie Trostle, 81st Fighter Squadron dedicated crew chief for the unit's flagship, and Airman 1st Class Kyle Truelsen, assistant dedicated crew chief on the aircraft, unveil the name of the new commander for the 52nd Operations Group, Col. Michael Beard. Beard assumed command of the group from Col. Jan-Marc Jouas during a ceremony March 24.